

EXHIBIT 18

**Redacted Version of
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

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CHASOM BROWN, et al.,)
on behalf of themselves and)
all others similarly)
situated,)
Plaintiffs,) Case No.
vs.) 4:20-cv-03664-YGR-SVK
GOOGLE LLC,)
Defendant.)
_____)

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Videotaped Zoom Deposition of
GLENN BERNTSON
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
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Katy E. Schmidt
RPR, RMR, CRR, CSR 13096
Veritext Job No.: 5757744

Page 1

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BE IT REMEMBERED that, pursuant to Notice, and on Tuesday, the 14th day of February, 2023, commencing at the hour of 6:03 a.m., thereof, in New York, New York, before me, KATY E. SCHMIDT, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the County of Yolo, State of California, there virtually personally appeared

GLENN BERNTSON

called as a witness herein, who, being by me first
duly sworn, was thereupon examined and interrogated as
hereinafter set forth.

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1 APPEARANCES:

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3 (Appeared via Zoom)

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18 Also present:

19 Steven Togami, Videographer

20 Matthew Gubiotti, In-house counsel

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1 privacy where they can go interact on the web as a 06:25
2 person that has no prior history, and then when 06:25
3 they're done with that session, it's all thrown out. 06:25
4 So it's privacy by design is how I would 06:25
5 characterize it as a user of Chrome. 06:26
6 BY MR. FRAWLEY: 06:26
7 Q. Is it fair to say that these cookie jars in 06:26
8 your declaration are showing -- let me rephrase this 06:26
9 question. 06:26
10 These cookie jars are not representing 06:26
11 what's happening on the server side of Google. 06:26
12 Is that correct? 06:26
13 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Form. 06:26
14 THE WITNESS: The notion of a cookie jar is 06:26
15 specifically a client side concept. 06:26
16 BY MR. FRAWLEY: 06:26
17 Q. Can you tell me what "client side" means? 06:26
18 A. In the case of Chrome, the browser within 06:26
19 Chrome. 06:27
20 Q. And how is that different from server side? 06:27
21 A. So when I say within Chrome, let's say you 06:27
22 have a laptop and you have Chrome installed on your 06:27
23 laptop. It is an application that is running in the 06:27
24 memory of your laptop. And all of the content that's 06:27
25 in Chrome is physically stored on your laptop. And as 06:27

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1 you go to sites and, for example, log into sites, that 06:27
2 information is then stored locally inside the 06:27
3 application Chrome which is on your laptop. 06:27

4 And so the notion of a cookie really 06:27
5 represents the equivalent of a document that is stored 06:27
6 inside Chrome. Different cookie jars within Chrome 06:27
7 mean that there are these two different sets of 06:28
8 documents that are not intermingled at all. 06:28

9 Server side is where, say, a request is made 06:28
10 to an entity such as New York Times dot com. 06:28
11 New York Times dot com is a domain that then gets 06:28
12 resolved to a physical device on the internet. And 06:28
13 if, for example, I open up my browser and I type 06:28
14 New York Times dot com, my browser makes a call to 06:28
15 New York Times dot com often with, say, a URL. Could 06:28
16 be just New York Times dot com, could be an actual URL 06:28
17 to a story that when that request is made, the content 06:28
18 that is stored server side, in this case, for example, 06:28
19 the content of a particular page of the 06:28
20 New York Times, is then delivered back to the client. 06:28

21 And so what you're seeing in your client 06:29
22 when you navigate to a given site is a copy of content 06:29
23 that the server, in this case New York Times, had 06:29
24 server side that when you made the request, was 06:29
25 delivered back to your browser and then rendered in 06:29

Page 22

CONFIDENTIAL

1 your browser. 06:29

2 So server side is the information that's 06:29

3 stored basically in the systems associated with, say, 06:29

4 a request from the browser. 06:29

5 Q. And if a user in Chrome incognito visits a 06:29

6 website that uses Google Ad Manager, fair to say that 06:29

7 Google may receive certain data about that visit; 06:29

8 correct? 06:30

9 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Form. 06:30

10 THE WITNESS: Ad Manager can't tell the 06:30

11 difference between when a user is in private browsing 06:30

12 mode and when they are not. 06:30

13 And if a publisher is using Ad Manager to 06:30

14 serve ads into their site and therefore has integrated 06:30

15 RSDK into their site and enabled that SDK to make an 06:30

16 ad request, then from the user's browser, who has then 06:30

17 loaded the content, say, from the New York Times, an 06:30

18 ad request can be made to Ad Manager to retrieve an ad 06:30

19 that is then rendered in the New York Times. And as 06:30

20 part of that ad request, there's standard HTTP 06:30

21 information that's included in the ad request. 06:30

22 BY MR. FRAWLEY:

23 Q. And the information that comes to Google in 06:31

24 that scenario would be stored server side in Google 06:31

25 logs; correct? 06:31

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1 If you use IP address, you can't do that. 06:53

2 So we've designed our systems very 06:53

3 specifically to keep IP address to very limited usages 06:53

4 that are sort of required to meet our obligations as 06:53

5 an ad-serving platform, but otherwise it's locked down 06:53

6 and not used by the rest of our systems. 06:54

7 BY MR. FRAWLEY:

8 Q. Can you look at paragraph 28 of your 06:54

9 declaration? 06:54

10 Do you see where you wrote: 06:54

11 "When the private browsing mode user 06:54

12 closes the session, the cookies that were 06:54

13 set during that private browsing session 06:54

14 are automatically and permanently deleted 06:54

15 from the browser"?

16 Do you see that? 06:54

17 A. Yes. 06:54

18 Q. And the cookie jar, the cookies are fading 06:54

19 because they're being deleted. 06:54

20 Is that right? 06:54

21 A. Yes. That's -- that's what that indicates. 06:54

22 Q. Now, when the private browsing session is 06:54

23 closed and the cookies are deleted on the browser, 06:54

24 does that mean that the corresponding information is 06:54

25 also deleted by Google on the server side? 06:55

Page 37

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1 A. Eventually. What happens is because these 06:55
2 cookies are gone, we don't see any more traffic with 06:55
3 these IDs, and a clock starts ticking. Data -- you 06:55
4 know, any data we have associated with an ID, like a 06:55
5 GAIA ID or a Biscotti ID, when it becomes stale, we 06:55
6 will then delete the data after a certain amount of 06:55
7 time. 06:55

8 The longest we're retaining any data like 06:55
9 this would be [REDACTED]. So if there's no activity, 06:55
10 we just delete the data. And in many cases copies of 06:55
11 the data that we store, we delete much sooner than 06:55
12 that. 06:55

13 So we won't delete it right away. We use 06:55
14 the fact there's no activity associated with the ID 06:55
15 that we then mark it as stale and then delete the 06:55
16 data. 06:56

17 Q. Okay. Can you look at paragraph -- sorry -- 06:56
18 page 13 of your declaration. 06:56

19 So on this page, at least in the top two 06:56
20 paragraphs you're discussing cookie blocking; correct? 06:56

21 A. Yes. 06:56

22 Q. What is cookie blocking? 06:57

23 A. There are two different types of cookie 06:57
24 blocking that are described in the page that you're 06:57
25 referring to. 06:57

Page 38

CONFIDENTIAL

1 websites where you don't even sign into that website? 07:01

2 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Compound. Form. 07:01

3 THE WITNESS: I didn't say signed in. I 07:01

4 said state. Signed in is one example of state that 07:01

5 can be recorded in a first-party cookie or even a 07:01

6 third-party cookie. It will impact an awful lot more 07:01

7 than just your signed-in browsing experience. 07:01

8 BY MR. FRAWLEY:

9 Q. Now, in both of these examples on page 13 07:01

10 for cookie blocking, either disabling third-party 07:02

11 cookies or blocking all cookies, do those things 07:02

12 prevent Google Ad Manager from receiving any 07:02

13 information or just some information? 07:02

14 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Compound. Form. 07:02

15 Vague. 07:02

16 THE WITNESS: When disabling third-party 07:02

17 cookies, that will prevent Ad Manager from receiving 07:02

18 third-party cookies which correspond in our prior 07:02

19 conversations to both GAIA and Biscotti. Those would 07:02

20 both be blocked. 07:02

21 If all cookies are blocked, that would 07:02

22 include GAIA and Biscotti, and that would also include 07:02

23 any first-party identifier that may be set, including 07:02

24 if a publisher is, for example, storing some 07:03

25 representation of a user because they are trying to 07:03

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1 maintain some state. 07:03

2 Neither of these options would impact 07:03

3 whether or not an ad request can be made. It would 07:03

4 just impact the information that is stored in cookies 07:03

5 in the browser from being able to be included in the 07:03

6 ad request. 07:03

7 BY MR. FRAWLEY:

8 Q. So can you look at paragraph 9 of your 07:03

9 declaration on page 4? 07:03

10 And do you see where it says 07:03

11 "Google Ad Manager may receive:" colon, and then 07:03

12 there's a list of information that Google Ad Manager 07:03

13 may receive? 07:03

14 A. Yes. 07:03

15 Q. So in the case of either blocking 07:03

16 third-party cookies or blocking all cookies, those 07:03

17 things are only going to affect No. 1 in this list. 07:04

18 Is that correct? 07:04

19 A. I'm reviewing to make sure. 07:04

20 Q. Please. 07:04

21 A. It does impact 1. Those that are listed, it 07:04

22 impacts 1. 07:04

23 Q. Okay. Can you go back to page 13? 07:04

24 Do you see at the bottom where you discuss 07:04

25 disabling JavaScript in Chrome settings? 07:04

Page 43

CONFIDENTIAL

1 Q. Now, going back to how we changed the 08:44
2 examples before and we inserted something underneath 08:44
3 27 where the user goes to gmail and signs in, do you 08:44
4 recall that? 08:44

5 A. I do. 08:44

6 Q. Does that act of signing into gmail change 08:44
7 your view on whether the paragraph 26 cookie is still 08:44
8 part of the data at issue in this case? 08:44

9 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Vague. 08:44

10 THE WITNESS: My understanding is that the 08:44
11 data at issue for this case is a non-signed-in private 08:44
12 browsing mode. 08:45

13 And as I have documented here in No. 26, 08:45
14 that is a non-signed-in user in private browsing mode, 08:45
15 so it's a pseudonymous non-signed-in Biscotti cookie 08:45
16 that is added to the private browsing mode cookie jar. 08:45

17 In 27, we have another non-signed-in cookie 08:45
18 added to the cookie jar. 08:45

19 You proposed inserting an additional step 08:45
20 which involved signing into a Google property while in 08:45
21 private browsing mode, which itself means we're now 08:45
22 talking about something that is outside the scope of 08:45
23 the case, as I understand it. 08:45

24 BY MR. FRAWLEY:

25 Q. So I'm just trying to be really specific. 08:45

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1 I'm not trying to reask the same question. 08:45

2 Are you saying that once the user signs in, 08:45

3 in my new No. 28, it is that all future data is 08:45

4 outside the case or does it also make the prior data 08:46

5 in 26 and 27 outside the case? 08:46

6 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Compound. 08:46

7 Foundation. And calls for a legal conclusion. 08:46

8 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure how to understand 08:46

9 or really answer your question because this 08:46

10 declaration was written with an understanding that the 08:46

11 case is based on non-signed-in users in private 08:46

12 browsing mode. 08:46

13 And if I understand what you're saying, 08:46

14 you're saying, okay, how about signed-in users in 08:46

15 private browsing mode, in which case I may need to 08:46

16 write another declaration. 08:46

17 My understanding is the case -- the scenario 08:46

18 that you brought up is outside the scope of the case. 08:46

19 That is my understanding. 08:46

20 BY MR. FRAWLEY:

21 Q. So when you think about the case being 08:47

22 limited to signed-out users, you're imagining the user 08:47

23 who stays signed out the entire private browsing 08:47

24 session; correct? 08:47

25 A. The scope of this case is a signed-out 08:47

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1 private browsing session, and I believe you've 08:47
2 answered your own question because if you sign in, it 08:47
3 is no longer a signed-out private browsing session. 08:47

4 So if you sign in during a private browsing 08:47
5 session, it is no longer a signed-out private browsing 08:47
6 session. 08:47

7 Q. And it makes no difference to you whether 08:47
8 the person signs in at the very beginning, in the 08:47
9 middle, or at the end? 08:47

10 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Compound. 08:47

11 THE WITNESS: I'm happy to talk through how 08:47
12 cookies are managed and data flows even when you sign 08:47
13 into a private browsing session. But that is, as I 08:47
14 understand it, outside the scope of this case. And 08:48
15 this declaration was authored to cover topics that 08:48
16 were in scope for the case. 08:48

17 So I'm happy to answer additional questions 08:48
18 you may have relating to how data is managed and what 08:48
19 data flows look like if you sign in in a private 08:48
20 browsing mode. But the declaration I have written 08:48
21 here is covering material as I understood it to be 08:48
22 within the scope of the case. 08:48

23 BY MR. FRAWLEY:

24 Q. So one follow-up question on that. 08:48

25 The sentence that I read to you that goes 08:48

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1 It's impossible. Because there are technical 09:14
2 restrictions, there are policies that are very clear, 09:14
3 there are reviews that every piece of code goes 09:14
4 through where multiple people have to look at that 09:14
5 code. 09:14

6 So I say it does because we don't. But if 09:14
7 you actually look at the processes and policies we 09:14
8 have in place, operationally this is impossible 09:14
9 because we've committed to not do it and we put 09:14
10 processes in place that mean it would be impossible to 09:14
11 actually have a product doing this. 09:14

12 The only thing that I can concede is that if 09:14
13 a person who was an engineer, who was in a trusted 09:14
14 role, who was given access to this data for a very 09:14
15 specific business purpose, decided they wanted to find 09:14
16 an IP address and do something nefarious with it, it 09:15
17 is hypothetically possible. But if they did so, they 09:15
18 would be fired. 09:15

19 So, no, I'm not going to concede Google 09:15
20 could do this. We have made it impossible for 09:15
21 ourselves to be able to do this because user privacy 09:15
22 matters. 09:15

23 Q. Does Google Ad Manager use any data that it 09:15
24 receives to train any AI or machine-learning 09:16
25 algorithms? 09:16

Page 115

CONFIDENTIAL

1 publisher would be. 09:17

2 Now, this is really quite powerful for 09:17

3 publishers because publishers can set a floor price 09:17

4 that basically says, "I'm not going to accept an ad 09:17

5 from you unless you pay at least this much money." 09:17

6 And when we send out bid requests, we can 09:18

7 tell advertisers, "Hey, this publisher has set a 09:18

8 floor. You really need to pay more than this if you 09:18

9 actually want to serve the ad." 09:18

10 And what's interesting is when a publisher 09:18

11 communicates, "Oh, here's my floor," if they set that 09:18

12 floor just a little bit above what they know most of 09:18

13 the distribution of bids are, they can change the 09:18

14 behavior of buyers and they bid more. 09:18

15 And so how does a publisher intelligently 09:18

16 set a floor at just the right amount where we know 09:18

17 there's additional demand that's possible to drive 09:18

18 bids up a little bit? 09:18

19 So that's an example of where we're 09:18

20 processing huge amounts of data and we can help 09:18

21 publishers understand even across different parts of 09:18

22 their inventory, such as on the New York Times, on the 09:18

23 sports pages, versus the front page, versus their 09:18

24 cuisine and cooking pages. 09:18

25 What's the ideal strategy for setting floors 09:19

Page 117

CONFIDENTIAL

1 to maximize how much money they are? 09:19

2 So that's an example of how we just use tons 09:19

3 of data to try to find these patterns and solve for 09:19

4 this model that then allows publishers to earn the 09:19

5 maximum amount of money possible for their inventory. 09:19

6 And that's the kind of thing we do. We've 09:19

7 got a lot of data flowing through our system. 09:19

8 For Ad Manager the models we build are 09:19

9 fundamentally how can we help publishers? 09:19

10 MR. ANSORGE: Could I get another time 09:19

11 count, please? 09:19

12 MR. FRAWLEY: Just to be clear, Joey, it's 09:19

13 not limited to three hours. We're on the same page 09:19

14 there; right? 09:19

15 MR. ANSORGE: Yeah. But my understanding 09:19

16 was you were doing another hour. And since we've been 09:19

17 communicating, you were taking a short break, there's 09:19

18 two hearings today, Dr. Berntson has a full deck this 09:19

19 afternoon. 09:19

20 How much longer are you intending on going, 09:19

21 Alex? 09:19

22 MR. FRAWLEY: Not -- I don't think a ton 09:19

23 longer but I just -- this is the second time you asked 09:19

24 so it just seems like you're -- you were asking as if 09:19

25 there's a time hard stop, and I just want to be clear 09:20

Page 118

CONFIDENTIAL

1 there's not. 09:20

2 THE WITNESS: I do have a meeting at 1:00 09:20

3 that if I need to change, I need to notify the person 09:20

4 that I'm not going to be able to make that meeting. 09:20

5 MR. FRAWLEY: I don't think you'll need to 09:20

6 change that meeting, but I -- I don't -- I don't think 09:20

7 you will need to. 09:20

8 Should we go off the record to talk about 09:20

9 this or -- 09:20

10 MR. ANSORGE: No. Let's get the questioning 09:20

11 done. If you think we can get it done in the 09:20

12 40 minutes, let's do it. 09:20

13 Except, Dr. Berntson, if you would like a 09:20

14 bathroom break -- 09:20

15 THE WITNESS: Let's go. Let's go. 09:20

16 MR. ANSORGE: Yeah. Let's go. 09:20

17 BY MR. FRAWLEY: 09:20

18 Q. All right. These things that Ad Manager 09:20

19 builds for publishers, do these Google 09:20

20 machine-learning things have names or are there 09:20

21 specific examples of them that have different names? 09:20

22 A. The example that I gave you is that, it's 09:20

23 optimize floors. Optimize floors, which evolved to 09:20

24 optimize pricing rules, because pricing rules is where 09:20

25 a publisher can set up different rules for pricing or 09:21

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1 setting floors on their inventory based on attributes 09:21
2 of the inventory. 09:21
3 So that would be an example. 09:21
4 Q. And do you remember we agreed earlier that 09:21
5 Ad Manager doesn't distinguish how it treats private 09:21
6 browsing traffic from any other kind of traffic? 09:21
7 A. Yes. 09:21
8 Q. Does that apply to Ad Managers' use of data 09:21
9 to build things like optimize floor? 09:21
10 A. Entirely. 09:21
11 Q. Aside from optimize floors -- or floor -- I 09:21
12 forget what you said -- are there any other specific 09:21
13 machine-learning products that Ad Manager has built to 09:21
14 help publishers? 09:21
15 MR. ANSORGE: Mr. Frawley, I'm going to 09:21
16 object as outside of the scope of the declaration. 09:21
17 THE WITNESS: Yes. 09:22
18 BY MR. FRAWLEY: 09:22
19 Q. Can you tell me any other specific examples? 09:22
20 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Scope. 09:22
21 THE WITNESS: I provided an example. I 09:22
22 can't give you an exhaustive list. I don't know if 09:22
23 you're asking for one more example or if you're asking 09:22
24 for every example I can remember. 09:22
25 ///

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1 BY MR. FRAWLEY: 09:22

2 Q. As many examples as you can remember just 09:22

3 sitting here right now. 09:22

4 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Scope. 09:22

5 THE WITNESS: Well, this is certainly not 09:22

6 covered in my declaration but let me see what I can 09:22

7 come up with. 09:22

8 So we've talked about optimize pricing 09:22

9 rules, reserved price optimization. Let's see. 09:22

10 Enhanced dynamic allocation. Oh, smart throttling. 09:23

11 BY MR. FRAWLEY:

12 Q. That's helpful. 09:23

13 If you have -- 09:23

14 A. There are more, but... 09:23

15 Q. No. I think in the interest of time we can 09:23

16 stop there. 09:23

17 Fair to say if you had a long time to think 09:23

18 about it, you could come up with an exhaustive list of 09:23

19 close to exhaustive list? 09:23

20 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Form. Vague. 09:23

21 THE WITNESS: For Ad Manager itself? 09:23

22 BY MR. FRAWLEY: 09:23

23 Q. Yes. For Ad Manager. Okay. 09:23

24 A. But there are other ad products that have 09:24

25 their own models. Yeah. 09:24

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1 Q. And focusing on optimize floors, about how 09:24
2 long has it taken to build that program or model or 09:24
3 whatever you phrase it as? 09:24

4 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Scope. 09:24

5 Mr. Frawley, do you have any more questions 09:24
6 about Dr. Berntson's declaration? Because although we 09:24
7 might not have had a hard stop of three hours, we did 09:24
8 have an understanding that the questions would be tied 09:24
9 to his declaration, and we have now exceeded the three 09:24
10 hours and you appear to be very far afield from where 09:24
11 we started. 09:24

12 MR. FRAWLEY: So I'll just ask, are you 09:24
13 instructing Dr. Berntson not to answer? 09:24

14 MR. ANSORGE: No. I was asking you whether 09:24
15 you had any questions that pertained to his 09:24
16 declaration with the agreement between the parties 09:24
17 that the questioning would be focused on the 09:24
18 declaration. 09:24

19 MR. FRAWLEY: I think it does, but I don't 09:24
20 think we want to waste time having like an oral 09:24
21 argument because that will take us longer. 09:24

22 MR. ANSORGE: Well, but it would be helpful 09:24
23 if you point to the path in the declaration you're 09:25
24 asking about because I've lost track of where we are. 09:25

25 MR. FRAWLEY: So I'll just re-ask my 09:25

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1 question then, and it's your right to instruct 09:25

2 Dr. Berntson not to answer, if that's what you'd like 09:25

3 but -- what did I say? 09:25

4 BY MR. FRAWLEY: 09:25

5 Q. Oh. Focusing on optimize floors, about how 09:25

6 long has it taken to build that program or model? 09:25

7 MR. ANSORGE: Same objection. 09:25

8 THE WITNESS: That was about a year. 09:25

9 BY MR. FRAWLEY: 09:25

10 Q. Okay. I'm going to return to something we 09:25

11 were talking about earlier in the deposition. Forgive 09:25

12 me if I butcher exactly how you described things. 09:25

13 But do you recall when we were talking about 09:25

14 how on the server side, signed-in data will be in 09:25

15 different logs from -- well, I'll just say a long 09:26

16 thing and Joey can object, and we can get there 09:26

17 together. 09:26

18 Do you recall when we were talking about how 09:26

19 signed-in logs are different from signed-out logs when 09:26

20 there's identifiers that are going to be kept in 09:26

21 separate logs? Does that at all ring any bell? 09:26

22 Sort of? 09:26

23 MR. ANSORGE: Objection. Vague. 09:26

24 THE WITNESS: I believe I know what you're 09:26

25 referring to. The characterization is inaccurate. 09:26

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

---o0o---

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.

COUNTY OF YOLO)

I, KATY E. SCHMIDT, a Certified Shorthand
Reporter in and for the State of California, duly
commissioned and a disinterested person, certify:

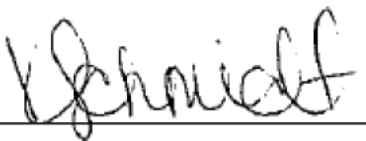
That the foregoing deposition was taken before
me at the time and place herein set forth;

That GLENN BERNTSON, the deponent herein, was
put on oath by me;

That the testimony of the witness and all
objections made at the time of the examination were
recorded stenographically by me to the best of my
ability and thereafter transcribed into typewriting;

That the foregoing deposition is a record of
the testimony of the examination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my name on this
16th day of February, 2023.



Katy E. Schmidt, RPR, RMR, CRR, CSR 13096
Certified Shorthand Reporter
in and for the
County of Sacramento,
State of California
Ref. No. 5757744 KES

Page 148